

LOUGHTON
Urban District Council.

REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
Inspector of Nuisances,

AND

✠ Surveyor, ✠

For the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1904

LOUGHTON :

Printed by M. Hickman, "Advertiser" Office, High Beech Road

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

January, 1905.

To the Chairman and Members of the Loughton Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting the Report for the year ending December 31st, 1904.

AREA.—The Urban District of Loughton has an area of 3961 acres, a considerable portion of which is the grazing land of dairy-farms. The Uplands Estate has now been laid out for residential houses, and already several houses are completed. The upper part of this estate, together with Goldings and Woodberrie hills present outcrops of gravel.

POPULATION.—The population is estimated at 5100. The inhabited houses are chiefly Residential and Cottages. The Cottage property is on the whole in good condition, but I regret to have again to draw your attention to the group of crowded wooden cottages on Pump Hill, which are dilapidated and back to back.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supply is from the East London Water Works Co.'s deep well, in the chalk of the Lea Valley, and though hard is abundant. Every house is supplied and has storage tanks. W.c's in the older cottages are not provided with flushing tanks. There are no surface wells in the District.

HOUSE REFUSE.—The removal of house refuse is effected by public scavenger. He is instructed to visit houses whose owners require the removal of refuse once a fortnight. The refuse is dealt with at the sewage farm.

SEWAGE SYSTEM.—The water carriage system of Sewage is employed over the greater part of the district, and is on the whole efficient. The purification at the outfall works is hampered by too small an area of land, and by the presence of too much storm water. It will be necessary at some future date to employ some bacterial method of purification.

There are certain portions of the District namely Chigwell Lane, part of England's Lane, and Debden Green, which cannot be drained into the above system. Houses and Cottages therein situated drain primarily into Cesspools. Your Sanitary Inspector has given these places his particular attention and the condition is on the whole satisfactory.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—There are no Common Lodging Houses in your District.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.—In this District 26 workshops are on the official register, viz. :—5 Bakehouses, 7 Carpenter's and Joiner's shops, 5 Smith's shops, 2 Laundries, 4 Dressmakers and Milliners', and 3 Shoemakers' shops. During the past year 33 inspections of workshops have been made and one written notice served. The number of defects discovered was only 2, one case being want of cleanliness and the other a defective drain. Both were remedied at once. Apart from these two cases, everything has been satisfactory.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, ETC.—The benefit reaped from the Bye-laws relating to Dairies, Cowsheds, Slaughter-houses, and piggeries, is this year strongly shown in the public health returns, which are discussed in a later section.

Owing to the strict operation of the bye-law relating to pigs, very few of them are now bred and kept in your District. Those who know the relationship of scarlet fever and diphtheria to piggeries adjacent to dwellings will appreciate this improvement.

The alterations in dairies, cowsheds, and slaughter-houses, have for the most part been done to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Authority.

During the summer months the Corporation have thoroughly cleansed and cleared the artificial water at the top of Staples road, commonly known as the reservoir or Staples road pond. The recent rains have refilled it, and the result is satisfactory both to the eye and nose.

I am glad to report to you that everything has been carried out by owners and tenants in a friendly and conscientious manner. It has been possible to strictly enforce the Bye-laws without the resort to magisterial interference.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The immunity of your district from infectious disease during 1904 has been phenomenal. There was one case of scarlet fever, the last one of the 1903 epidemic, and one case of typhoid fever, which was traced to food eaten in London; and six cases of diphtheria.

Thus no case of typhoid fever has been acquired in your District for the past two years, a record which I think is almost unique with the water carriage system of sewage.

VITAL STATISTICS.—For the past three years the nett death rates have been 8.3, 8.4 and 8.6 showing that the reputation of your district as being remarkably healthy, is now firmly established. During the last year (1904) only 34 deaths of residents up to the end of November were recorded. The bad weather and fogs of December coupled with an epidemic of influenza, were responsible for ten more, making the nett total 44.

It is to be noticed again that Loughton is singularly free from Phthisis, and other tubercular diseases. Of the three deaths from Phthisis, two were imported cases, and the occupation of the third took him out of the village during the day time.

I have again to note this year that between the ages of 5 and 15 no deaths occurred, and only one between 15 and 25. There were 9 deaths of children under one year, as against an average of 12.5 for the past four years. The rate of deaths under 1 year per 1000 births is 95.2 which is slightly under the average rate for the past 4 years, viz. 95.9.

The birth rate has steadily been diminishing during the past four years, and has this year sunk to 20.58 per 1000, being 6 per 1000 below the average of the last 4 years.

It is noteworthy that this tendency has been marked throughout the United Kingdom; and is usually concomitant with a decrease in the general prosperity of a nation.

I am, Sirs, Your obedient servant,

A. BUTLER-HARRIS,
M.A., M.B., B.Ch., Oxon.

Urban District of Loughton.

Area 3961 Acres				
Population	....	....	....	Estimated 5100
Number of Inhabited Houses	....	....	....	.... 963 (about).
Average No. of Inhabitants in each house			....	.... 5

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents in Public Institutions in the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	At all Ages.				Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 months of 1900.	4500	72	21.3	15	97.2	57	16.8	16	19*	38	11.26
1901. (Census.)	4730	127	26.89	12	94.48	35	7.4	2	2	33	6.9
1902.	4800	113	31.7	12	106.2	42	8.7	1	1	40	8.3
1903.	5000	128	25.6	11	86.0	43	8.6		1 suicide in Forest	42	8.4
Averages for years 1903-1904.	4757	114	26.37	12.5	95.9	47	10.3			38.0	8.7
1904.	5100	105	20.58	9	95.2	47	9.2	1	1 + 2 Suicides in Forest.	44	8.6

* Total Non-Residents.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in whole District.					
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.				
		1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards.
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	6	3	2	1	...	...
Membranous croup...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	..
Scarlet fever... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...
Typhus fever... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever... ..	1	...	...	...	1	...
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals.	8	3	3	1	1	

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District,							Non-residents.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 & under 5	5 & under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Whooping-cough	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Membranous croup... ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic influenza... ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Enteritis	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	1*
Cancer... ..	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	..
Bronchitis	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	9	4	2	..	..	3	..	..
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of Liver... ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Premature birth	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Heart diseases	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Accidents	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Suicides	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	2†
Cerebral Apoplexy	4	..	..	..	..	2	2	..
Diseases of the nervous system	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Old age	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Atrophy	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pernicious anæmia	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Gastritis	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
All causes	47	9	4	..	1	20	13	3

* Died in Oriolet

† Suicide in Forest

} 44 Nett.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS. LAUNDRIES, WORK-PLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

	Inspec-tions.	Written notices.
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop } Laundries)	33	1

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Want of Cleanliness	found 1	Remedied 1
Other Nuisances	„ 1	„ 1

Inspector of Nuisances

Report.

Summary of work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Urban Sanitary District of Loughton during the year ending December 31st, 1904.

1.	Complaints received	26
2.	Nuisances detected without complaint ...	22
3.	Nuisances abated	47
4.	Notices served	7
5.	Cottages inspected	31
6.	Slaughter-houses inspected	3
7.	Bakehouses inspected	5
8.	Dairies and Milk Shops inspected	5
9.	Cowsheds inspected	6
10.	Workshops inspected	27
11.	Houses Disinfected	4
12.	Overcrowding abated	3
13.	Houses erected or re-built for which Water "Certificates" were applied ...	23
14.	"Certificates" granted	23
15.	Houses connected with sewers	21
16.	Privies and W.c.'s supplied with water ...	4
17.	Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered ...	1
18.	Animals improperly kept removed	58

Signed,

S. T. BOCOCK,

A. R. San. I.,
Sanitary Inspector.

Surveyor's Annual Report.

Loughton,
January 9th, 1905.

To the Chairman and Members of the Loughton Urban
District Council.

GENTLEMEN.

I have much pleasure in presenting my fifth Annual Report for the year 1904.

In dealing first with the work done by the Sanitary Committee 20 plans for various buildings, mostly dwelling houses, have been submitted, which compared with 40 passed the preceding year, shows the slackness of building trade within the District.

One dangerous structure, a chimney head, was reported and rebuilt.

Nothing of great importance connected with the sewers has required the Committee's attention, but two manholes and one lamp hole have been found, uncovered, and raised, whilst a ventilating shaft in Meadow Road has been erected, and 2 purchased for erection on Baldwins Hill, and the erection of one at Allard's Grove is under discussion.

Considering the dry summer, the year's work at the Outfall works has been extremely satisfactory.

Dr. Thresh analysed the effluent early in the year, with the result that it was the best we ever had, although the Contractor who bought the crop failed to get it cleared and this caused considerable trouble. The only complaint received with regard to the River was a friendly, informal one from the Buckhurst Hill Inspector, which was soon remedied.

One of the filters was relaid and I hoped to be able to get the sewage on the adjoining fields, but was unable to do so.

Sundry necessary repairs were carried out and Alumina Ferric was substituted for Sulphate of Alumina as a precipitant.

The Highways Committee have had a very busy year, much important work has been done and many improvements have been carried out.

Early in the year the Culvert under the Railway near Mr Marshall's nursery was improved at each end and the ditch cleared out ; whilst 2 new manholes were built to the storm drain at the foot of Alger's Road, which was found blocked, and at once cleared.

During the summer practically the whole of the Forest Road paths were tarpaved, ; this has this winter proved a great improvement.

A new drain was put in the gravel pits to take off rain water and 560 yds. of gravel and 439 yds. of hoggin were got this season, a new system being employed which worked well. Thomas Bartrip, one of the oldest and best of the Council's men unfortunately was injured by an accidental fall of gravel, and being attacked at the same time by lung troubles died.

Later in the year a new foreman (G. L. Carter) was appointed and also a new roadman (G. Freeman) to take the place vacated by A. Patient.

The Gas Company extended their mains to Meadow Road, Smart's Lane, High Beech Road, and up York Hill, consequently 30 new lamps of improved patterns were erected. Several residents who desired to keep up the rural character of the District objected to their erection. New automatic burners (22) similar to those tried last winter were also purchased and placed on the lamps furthest away, and by this means the employment of a second man for lighting was obviated.

In addition to the gravel already mentioned, 760 tons of granite have been purchased, the bulk of which will be placed on the roads this winter, a little being kept for summer patching.

The Committee have also decided to make up Allard's Grove under the "Private Street Works Act" and plans, apportionments and specifications have been drawn up and signed, and the tender of Messrs W. and C. French accepted for carrying out the work, which will commence forthwith.

Amongst other improvements are (1) the widening of Nursery Rd. and a new path over the old ditch. (2), A new ditch has been opened at North Farm to divert the storm water from off Buckhurst Hill. (3), The affixing of "H" opposite all water hydrants. The numbering of houses in Forest Road and Smart's Lane has been decided upon, and will be commenced in the New Year ; negotiations are proceeding for the acquisition of an awkward corner of land in Smart's Lane.

All these improvements, together with the usual routine work of the Departments, show a steady progress in the improvement of the District : and this, without any increase in the rates, is, I think, cause for congratulation.

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient Servant,

HORACE WHITE, A.R.I.B.A.,

District Surveyor.